

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 02318

FOR: IBS IOR IBS, CINCPAC FOR USICA ADVISOR

EO 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN COUP MEDIA REACTION

1. IN THE CHRISTCHURCH "PRESS" MAY 5, 1978 THIS
ARTICLE APPEARED IN THEIR SECOND EDITORIAL UNDER THE
HEADING "THE COUP IN AFGHANISTAN":

2. "SOVIET DOGMA MIGHT NOT FIND FERTILE GROUND AMONG
THE STRONGLY ISLAMIC PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN AFTER THE COUP
AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT THERE; BUT
SOVIET INFLUENCE SURELY WILL. NOT THAT THAT WILL BE NEW.
THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN SCHEMING AND INTRIGUING IN THE
AREA FOR DECADES AND IT HAS NOT BEEN ALONE IN THIS..."

3. "NEVERTHELESS, IT IS TOO EARLY YET TO THINK THAT
SOVIET INFLUENCE AND DESIRES WILL BE DOMINANT IN
AFGHANISTAN. AFGHANIS HAVE BEEN DEALING WITH THEIR
NEIGHBOUR TO THE NORTH THROUGHOUT THEIR HISTORY. THEIR
ABILITY TO WITHSTAND PRESSURES SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY.
IF THE NEW LEADERS OF AFGHANISTAN ARE NOT MERE SOVIET
STOOGES, LITTLE IS CERTAIN ABOUT THE OUTCOMES..."

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4. "THE GREATEST EFFECT OF THE COUP AND THE ESTABLISH-
MENT OF THE FIRST COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH ASIA WILL
BE ON THE IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS AND ON RELATIONS BETWEEN
THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES..."

5. "THE WORST EFFECTS MAY BE FELT IN THE PROCESSES OF
DETENTE; THE UNITED STATES IS ALREADY VERY UPSET BY THE

EVENTS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA IN WHICH SOVIET AND CUBAN
FORCES HAVE BEEN ENGAGED. AT ITS VERY WORST, FOR THE WORLD
AT LARGE, THE AFGHANISTAN COUP MIGHT DELAY PROGRESS ON THE
STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS." ANDERSON

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